

REMARKS

The Examiner requires a restriction between Group I: Claims 1-7, drawn to an apparatus for extracting heat from a compressed air stream, Group II: Claims 8-15, drawn to an apparatus and method for extracting heat from a gas turbine engine gas flow stream, and Group III: Claim 16, drawn to a method for controlling the ratio of heat energy to output shaft energy. Applicant hereby traverses this restriction.

Applicant respectfully submits that Group I-III are not independent and distinct. Group I is directed to an energy recovery system that transfers energy from at least one intercooler to at least one heating district. Group II is directed to a district heating system and a method for its practice. Group III is directed a method for controlling a ratio of energy in an engine system. These groups are related in that they use an intercooled gas turbine engine to accomplish an energy transfer to a heating district or for adjusting the output of the intercooler and gas turbine engine. Given this relationship, there would not be a serious burden on the Examiner to examine each of these groups together. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn. Nevertheless, an election is made to continue prosecution on Group II: claims 8-15.

CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's Restriction Requirement is improper and should be withdrawn. The undersigned would be happy to discuss any aspect of the Application by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

/Wesly A. Alig/

Wesly A. Alig Reg. No. 57,211
GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY
1 Neumann Way, MD H-17
Cincinnati, OH 45215
(513) 243-5249

June 22, 2007